Broadband connectivity

1535. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in the State of Andhra Pradesh provided with broadband connectivity;

(b) by when all the Gram Panchayats will be provided with broadband connectivity;

(c) whether it is true that Universal Service Obligation Fund also planned to provide some funds for broadband connectivity in villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Out of 21,870 Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh, 10,862 are already enabled with broadband through wireline technology.

(b) It has been planned to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats by May, 2012.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is providing subsidy support of Rs. 1500 crore for rural wire-line broadband connections to individual users and Government institutions like Gram Panchayats, Higher Secondary Schools and Public Health Centres. The subsidy is being provided for broadband connections, Customer Premises Equipment (CPE), computer/computing devices and setting up of kiosks for public access to broadband services.

Ban on equipments at Chinese vendors

†1536. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has warned telecom operators not to make use of such equipments and network in 20 sensitive States, which are supplied by Chinese vendors;

(b) whether it is also a fact that BSNL has made a contract with a Chinese company Huawei to supply 2.5 crores of lines in Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(c) whether the above eight States are not sensitive;

(d) whether Government would make strict rules relating to the security for telecommunication sector keeping in view the national security .interests; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi